

Library
Health Department,
15, Stockwell Street,
Leek, Staffs.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee of the Leek Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my fourteenth Annual Report, being for the year 1953. In doing so I follow the lines indicated by the Minister of Health in Circular 42/51.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS

The population is mainly composed of artisans employed in the textile industries of the manufacture and dyeing of silk and artificial silk.

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the Urban District is 4,306 acres with an estimated population of 18,930.

The rateable value is £109,223 and a penny rate produces £430.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR

Live Births -

Legitimate	273	Birth rate per 1,000 of the	
Illegitimate	7	estimated resident population	15.23
Still Births	6	Rate per 1,000 total births	21.42
Deaths	233	Death rate per 1,000 of the	
		estimated resident population	11.88

Mean age at death -

Males 65.49 years; Females 69.13 years; Males & Females 67.31 years

It is interesting to recall that twenty years ago in 1933 the mean age at death was -

Males 56.3 years; Females 57.4 years; Males & Females 56.9 years

Death rate of infants under one year of age -

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	25
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	21.97
Illegitimate infants - deaths 1 (per 1,000 illegitimate live births)				142.85

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	Nil
" " Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	"
" " Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	"

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

- X Medical Officer of Health (Part time) -
Arthur Collis Hallowes, M.B., B.Ch. B.A.O. (T.C.Dub.) L.M. (Rotunda)
- X Chief Sanitary Inspector - also Inspector under the Housing Acts, Factory and Workshops Act, Shops Acts and Petroleum Act -
James Rowbotham, Assoc. M.C.T., M.S.I.A.
- X Sanitary Inspector - E. N. Whitehead, M.S.I.A.
Clerk - Miss A. M. Longbottom
" - Mr. E. A. Bold
Rodent operative - Mr. J. Traynor
- X One half of Salaries is contributed by Exchequer grants

TABLE 1
Analysis of Notifiable Diseases

	Total	Age									Deaths
		0	1	3	5	10	15	25	45	65 up	
Scarlet Fever	35	-	2	5	25	2	-	1	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	49	5	17	16	11	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	174	2	38	46	80	4	1	3	-	-	-
Pneumonia	17	2	1	3	-	-	-	3	4	4	4
Dysentery	6	1	-	1	3	-	-	1	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	30	1	1	4	1	6	6	5	5	1	-
Poliomyelitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
Total	312	11	59	75	120	12	8	13	9	5	4

TUBERCULOSIS

There has been an increase over the 1952 figure in the number of cases of Tuberculosis notified, details of which are given in Tables 2 and 3. 8 cases of Pulmonary and 3 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. 15 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis received Sanatorium treatment. During the year, the Housing Committee allocated 4 houses to Tuberculosis patients.

TABLE 11

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES

MORTALITY

	Pul.		Non-Pul.			Pul.		Non-Pul.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.
1.	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
5.	-	-	-	1		-	-	-	-
10.	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
15.	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
20.	-	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
25.	2	1	-	-		-	-	-	-
35.	1	-	-	1		-	-	-	-
45.	3	-	1	-		1	-	-	-
65 up.	1	-	-	-		-	-	-	-
	7	1	1	2		1	-	-	-
	8		3			1	-	-	-

TABLE 3

Notification of Tuberculosis

Year	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
1942	20	4	24
1943	17	13	30
1944	6	-	6
1945	11	5	16
1946	5	7	12
1947	15	2	17
1948	10	5	15
1949	17	6	23
1950	9	2	11
1951	14	6	20
1952	7	1	8
1953	8	3	11

In submitting my fourteenth Annual Report it is pleasing to note that for the sixth consecutive year no cases of Diphtheria were notified and only one case of Poliomyelitis occurred in the Urban area. There were 30 cases of Food Poisoning and salmonella typhi-murium was the organism responsible. None of these cases were fatal. 174 cases of Measles were reported occurring in the 1-5 age group, no deaths resulted. The rehousing of Tuberculosis cases has been satisfactorily proceeded with, and with the co-operation of the Housing Committee it is hoped that by the end of another twelve months all Tuberculosis cases in the Urban area will have been rehoused. I wish to thank the Sanitary Inspectors and the Staff for their co-operation and help at all times.

A. COLLIS HALLOWES.

Medical Officer of Health.

TABLE 4
ANALYSIS OF DEATH RETURNS

All causes	Sex	All Ages			
		M111	F122		
1. Tuberculosis of respiratory system	M	0		21. Other circulatory disease	M 3
	F	1			F 3
2. Other Tuberculosis Diseases	M	0		22. Influenza	M 1
	F	0			F 1
3. Syphilitic Disease	M	0		23. Pneumonia	M 2
	F	0			F 2
4. Diphtheria	M	0		24. Bronchitis	M 7
	F	0			F 7
5. Whooping Cough	M	0		25. Other diseases of respiratory system	M 1
	F	0			F 0
6. Meningococcal infections	M	0		26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	M 0
	F	0			F 0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	M	0		27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	M 1
	F	0			F 0
8. Measles	M	0		28. Nephritis & nephrosis	M 1
	F	0			F 0
9. Other infective & parasitic diseases	M	0		29. Hyperplasia of prostate	M 0
	F	0			F 0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	M	1		30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	M 0
	F	1			F 2
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	M	6		31. Congenital malformations	M 0
	F	0			F 0
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	M	0		32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	M 10
	F	5			F 7
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	M	0		33. Motor vehicle accidents	M 1
	F	2			F 0
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	M	16		34. All other accidents	M 0
	F	10			F 4
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	M	0		35. Suicide	M 1
	F	0			F 0
16. Diabetes	M	0		36. Homicides & operations of war	M 0
	F	1			F 0
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	M	13			
	F	26			
18. Coronary disease, angina	M	22			
	F	11			
19. Hypertension with heart disease	M	1			
	F	2			
20. Other heart disease	M	24			
	F	37			

Health Department,
15, Stockwell St.
Leek, Staffs.

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

To the Chairman and Members of the Leek Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

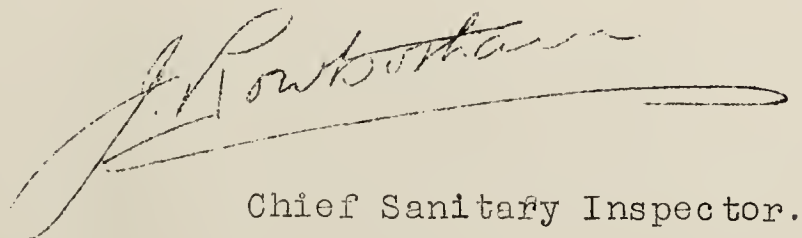
In submitting this, my twentieth Annual Report for 1953 on the sanitary circumstance of the district, I have followed the suggestions contained in Ministry of Health Circular 42/51.

Elsewhere in the Report will be found details of the inspection of meat and other foods and it is again pleasing to report that we have worked with the Manager and Staff of the Abattoir in the closest co-operation. Owing to the lack of hanging room and the almost entire absence of suitable facilities for the proper inspection of carcasses, visits for the purpose of inspection have to be made at very odd and awkward hours so that there is a minimum of delay and consequent wastage of time by the transport and slaughtering staff. By means of co-operation in this respect the allocation, distribution and slaughtering can proceed with the minimum of delay but it is sometimes unfortunate that this means a sacrifice of the spare and leisure time of the inspectorate.


During the year there was a slight improvement over 1952 in the number of applications for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act 1949. 14 applications were dealt with during the year under review whereas only 11 were dealt with in 1952.

It will be remembered that during the year we were advised by the owners of the Health Department offices that they would not be prepared to renew the lease when the same expired in March 1954, consequently a number of buildings were inspected but rejected as being unsuitable for one or more reasons. Finally, as you are aware, the Council decided to purchase a Georgian house known as 10 and 10A Stockwell St. and convert this building. It was finally resolved that the ground floor be taken over by the Health Department as offices, the first floor rooms were allocated to a Dental Surgeon which, incidentally, satisfied a long felt want in Leek, as within the last few years the town had lost 4 dentists, and the top floor was made into a self-contained flat which will house the caretaker.

Finally, Gentlemen, I should again like to place on record my appreciation of the co-operation and help I have received at all times from the Medical Officer of Health and particularly do I appreciate and thank the Staff of the Health Department for their loyalty and willingness.



Chief Sanitary Inspector.



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RODENT CONTROL.

The Council employ one full time Rodent Operative for the destruction of Rats and Mice in business premises, private dwelling houses, public sewers and the Town Tip, and during the year block control of parts of the town was done in addition to the normal work.

Inspections and treatments were divided as follows:-

Private Dwellings:	366 inspections 131 treatments
<u>Sewers:</u>	2 maintenance treatments
<u>3rd Party Premises:</u>	68 inspections 20 treatments
<u>Town Tip:</u>	12 inspections 3 treatments

5 block treatments were carried out

In November a meeting of the North Staffordshire Planning and Advisory Committee for Rodent Control was held in the Town Hall. Members were welcomed by the Chairman of the Health Committee, Councillor Haworth, and a very instructive paper was given by the Member from Newcastle. After lunch a tour was made of Brough, Nicholson & Halls which proved very successful.

MEAT

There was only one slaughterhouse in use during the year and 568 visits were made for the purpose of inspection.

The number of carcasses inspected was 8,207 comprising 1,689 Oxen, 546 Calves, 4,717 Sheep and 1,255 Pigs.

265 whole carcasses and the following organs were found to be unsound or diseased and were condemned as unfit for human consumption.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
	1689	546	4717	1255
All diseases except Tuberculosis whole carcasses condemned	38	133	45	17
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	434	5	359	69
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	26.27%	24.35%	7.61%	5.82%
Tuberculosis only Whole carcase condemned	24	2	-	6
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	339	-	-	98
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	20.09%	0.36%	-	7.80%

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF CARCASSES
CONDEMNED WITH CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION.

<u>CATTLE</u>					<u>SHEEP</u>	
	Whole carcass & all offal	Quarters		Meat	Whole carcass & all offal	Meat
		Hind	Fore			
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	24	4	11	1328 lbs.	-	-
<u>EMACIATION & OEDEMA</u>	9	-	-	-	27	-
<u>SEPTIC CONDITIONS</u>	11	-	-	-	6	-
<u>INJURY</u>	2	3	1	679 lbs.	8	56 lbs.
<u>PERITONITIS</u>	2	-	-	-	-	-
<u>OTHER CONDITIONS</u>	14	-	-	-	-	-
<u>MORIBUND</u>	-	-	-	-	4	-
Totals	62	7	12	2007 lbs.	45	56 lbs.

<u>CALVES</u>					<u>PIGS</u>	
<u>TUBERCULOSIS</u>	2	-	-	-	6	-
<u>EMACIATION & OEDEMA</u>	1	-	-	-	1	-
<u>SEPTIC CONDITIONS</u>	12	-	-	-	7	-
<u>PERITONITIS</u>	10	-	-	-	9	-
<u>INJURY</u>	2	-	-	32 lbs.	-	84 lbs.
<u>IMMATURITY</u>	108	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	135	-	-	32 lbs.	23	84 lbs.

TABLE SHOWING NUMBER OF ORGANS
CONDEMNED WITH CAUSES OF CONDEMNATION.

	<u>CATTLE</u>	<u>CALVES</u>	<u>SHEEP</u>	<u>PIGS</u>
<u>LUNGS:</u>				
Tuberculosis	278	-	-	29
Pneumonia	19	-	-	2
Cysts	5	-	-	-
Abscesses	10	-	-	-
Parasites	17	-	6	-
Wired	1	-	-	-
Total	<u>330</u>	-	<u>6</u>	<u>31</u>
 <u>HEARTS:</u>				
Pericarditis: T.B.	4	-	-	-
Wired	4	-	-	-
Endocarditis	-	-	-	3
Total	<u>8</u>	-	-	<u>3</u>
 <u>MESENTERIES:</u>				
Tuberculosis	41	-	-	-
 <u>STOMACHS: T.B.</u>				
	37	-	-	-
 <u>SPLEENS: T.B.</u>				
	2	-	-	-
 <u>LIVERS:</u>				
Tuberculosis	65	-	-	9
Angioma	51	-	-	-
Abscesses	56	-	-	6
Cirrhosis & Necrosis	26	-	-	3
Fatty Degeneration	42	-	-	4
Distomatosis	319	-	348	-
Cysts	10	-	-	10
Total	<u>569</u>	-	<u>348</u>	<u>32</u>
 <u>HEADS & TONGUES:</u>				
Tuberculosis	155	-	-	68
Actinomycosis	3	-	-	-
Abscesses	1	-	4	2
Total	<u>159</u>	-	<u>4</u>	<u>70</u>
 <u>SKIRTS: T.B.</u>				
	14	-	-	-
 <u>PLUCKS:</u>				
Parasites	-	3	29	20
Pneumonia	-	2	9	43
Total	-	<u>5</u>	<u>38</u>	<u>63</u>

TABLE 5.
H O U S I N G

1.	Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:	
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	90
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	122
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Act 1936	16
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	34
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	7
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	69
2.	Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:	
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers.	66
3.	Action under Statutory powers during the year:	
(a)	Proceedings under sections 9,10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied.	3
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a)	By owners	3
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	Nil
(c)	Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	8
(d)	Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act 1936:	
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the room or tenement having been rendered fit.	Nil

FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS

(a) Total number of outbreaks	2
(b) Number of cases notified and confirmed	28
" " suspected cases (not confirmed)	53
(c) Number of deaths	Nil
(d) Organisms or other agents responsible with outbreaks attributable to each	Salmonella typhi-murium
(e) Foods involved, with number of outbreaks associated with each food	Potted meat 1 and Cream cakes 1
Samples of foodstuffs for bacteriological examination	6
Faeces samples taken	127
Premises visited	70
Food-handlers interviewed	25

A few notes on these outbreaks will no doubt be of interest. The first cases were notified on 6th July 1953 and specimens submitted to the Pathological Laboratory at Stafford. It was confirmed on 9th July that the causative organism was *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Immediately the notification was received on 6th July enquiries were set on foot with the result that by the time the laboratory could confirm food poisoning organisms (usually 3 days) the food consumed by a number of persons who were subsequently ill had been traced to potted meat. The shop was, of course, visited and although the potted meat which caused the trouble had been sold out we prohibited any further manufacture. Fortunately we traced an empty jar which had contained the meat in a private household. This jar had not been washed. On submitting a scraping of the jar to the analyst he was able to confirm *Salmonella typhi-murium*, thus proving conclusively that this meat was infected. The method of manufacture was investigated and specimens taken from everyone involved in the preparation or handling. One person was found to be a carrier of the causative organism, *Salmonella typhi-murium*, and it was presumed this was the source of infection. A list of the regular buyers of the potted meat was supplied by the shopkeeper, and these persons were visited. Anyone with a history of illness was required to inform his/her medical adviser and a number of specimens were taken, some of which were positive.

On the 30th July another case was notified and was traced to a wedding party held at a local hotel. Specimens were taken of the foods eaten and the synthetic cream in some confectionery was found to be infected with *Salmonella typhi-murium*. The bakehouse where the cakes were made was visited, the method of manufacture checked and specimens taken from all persons who had prepared or handled the cakes. These proved negative. Synthetic cream from the same source was also found to be harmless. One of the hotel staff was, however, found to be excreting *Salmonella typhi-murium*. Like the other food-handler involved this person had had no symptoms of food poisoning and appeared quite healthy. A number of guests at the party were visited, and it was ensured that any case of illness amongst the party guests would be reported to his/her medical adviser.

A small number of secondary cases, amongst relatives of those exposed to the primary infection resulted, and a check was kept on these until the Public Health Laboratory reported them free of infection. The final clearance was received early in September from Public Health Laboratory.

In addition to the above, but not connected, was 1 case notified and confirmed in April and 1 case notified but not confirmed. Thus the total number of cases of food poisoning notified is 30, see Table No. 1.

FACTORIES ACTS 1937/1948

Number of premises on register	175
Number of inspections during the year	23
Number of cases in which defects were found	3
Number of cases in which defects were remedied during the year	3

HOUSE REFUSE REMOVAL

There are three motor vehicles engaged solely on the collection of house refuse disposed of by tipping.

4,014 loads of ashes and house refuse were removed during the year.

TABLE 6

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE TOWN

1.	Premises cleansed and repaired	...	...	...	85
2.	Drains tested	...	...	...	53
3.	Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	3
4.	Drains repaired	...	...	...	14
5.	Drains cleansed	...	...	...	18
6.	Water closets cleansed	...	...	...	4
7.	" " repaired	...	...	...	11
8.	" " constructed	...	...	...	-
9.	Flushing arrangements provided	...	...	...	2
10.	Waste pipes altered or repaired	...	...	...	4
11.	Rainwater pipes repaired	...	...	...	3
12.	Roofs and gutters repaired	...	...	...	24
13.	Additional ventilation provided	...	...	...	1
14.	Additional light provided	...	...	...	1
15.	Damp conditions remedied	...	...	...	16
16.	Yards drained and paved	...	...	...	-
17.	Dustbins provided	...	...	...	4
18.	Fireplaces provided or repaired	...	...	...	9
19.	Coppers provided or repaired	...	...	...	-
20.	Cases of overcrowding abated	...	...	...	9
21.	Accumulations of manure etc., removed	...	...	...	3
22.	Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	2
23.	Cesspools cleansed	...	...	...	1
24.	Rooms disinfested	...	...	...	50
25.	Privies converted into water closets	...	...	...	-
26.	Staircases repaired	...	...	...	2
27.	Handrails provided	...	...	...	-
28.	Windows repaired	...	...	...	5
29.	Floors repaired	...	...	...	8
30.	Walls and ceilings repaired	...	...	...	20
31.	Food storage provided	...	...	...	-
32.	Water supply provided or repaired	...	...	...	5
33.	Sinks provided	...	...	...	-
34.	Doors repaired	...	...	...	3
35.	Back doors provided	...	...	...	-
36.	Walls pointed	...	...	...	6
37.	Chimney stacks repaired	...	...	...	4
38.	Other nuisances	...	...	...	3
39.	Septic tanks provided	...	...	...	-
					<u>373</u>

No. of preliminary notices served	77
No. of preliminary notices complied with, without the service of statutory notices	74
No. of statutory notices served	3
No. of statutory notices complied with	2
Proceedings in Court	1

TABLE 7

No. of premises where notifiable diseases have occurred	312
No. of premises inspected where " " "	54
No. of premises disinfected " " "	35
Nuisances reported to Health Department	173
Inspection of premises where nuisances were found	155
" premises where no nuisances were found	12
" premises where offensive trades are conducted	nil
" houses let in lodgings	nil
" common Lodging Houses	nil
" Workshops	6
" Factories	21
" Slaughterhouses	568
" Dairies, Milkshops & Farms	21
" Bakehouses	31
" Markets and Stalls	44
" Food premises	207
re-inspections after complaints	335
" under Housing Acts	41
	<u>2015</u>

WATER SUPPLY

The water supply has consistantly been of good quality and during the year 298 samples were taken each of which proved quite satisfactory.

FOOD SAMPLES

ICE-CREAM

28 samples of ice-cream were taken with the following results:-

24 Grade 1 3 Grade 2 1 Grade 4

10 samples of potted meat - no pathogenic organisms were found

MILK & DAIRIES REGULATIONS 1949

The register under this Regulation is made up as follows:-

74 persons registered
74 as retail purveyors
25 as retailers of bottled and sterilized milk

FOOD INSPECTIONS

No. of inspections	...	...	...	...	119
<u>Foodstuffs Condemned</u>	...	...	...	...
Assorted foodstuffs	...	...	...	...	1,117 tins
Bacon and Ham	...	...	...	...	79 lbs.
Cheese and Processed Cheese	...	...	...	...	58 " 134 pkts.
Confectionery	...	...	...	...	27 "
Jams, Preserves & Sauces	...	...	...	...	38 jars
Shell Eggs	...	...	...	...	6 doz.
Sausages	...	...	...	...	63 lbs.
Beverages	...	...	...	...	4 cans
Cereal products	...	...	...	...	24 pkts.
Desiccated Coconut	...	...	...	...	29 "
Fish	...	...	...	...	88 lbs.
Flavourings	...	...	...	...	14 bottles
Frozen Imported Beef	...	...	...	...	850 lbs.
" " Lamb	...	...	...	...	60 "

